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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1915.

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year.

By JOHN KENDRICK BANGS.

First printing of an original poem, written daily for The Washington Herald.

VACATION DAYS.

Now here's a rhyme, a little rhyme,
For use in our vacation time:
I'm going to take a rest from sneers;
I'm going to knock off thinking blue,
And rest my tongue from gossip, too;
I'm going to leave off for a bit
All exercise of acid wit,
And for a few days call a halt
To discontent, and finding fault;
And from all kicking hold my feet.
Thus making my vacation sweet.

Possibly Haiti has merely been notified that we shall regard it as a deliberately unfriendly act if she refuses to turn her finances over to us.

Another thousand Mexicans have been killed in battle, according to a dispatch, but if the dispatches had all been true the Mexican problem would have been settled long ago by the extermination process.

Once more the lack of team work in Germany is apparent. While its newspapers are glorifying the sinking of the Arabic or engaged in trumping up circumstances to justify it, its Ambassador is pleading for suspension of judgment until Germany's side is heard, asserting that the killing of Americans was unintentional and expressing regret.

A man who says his salary is \$10 a week is being sued by his wife, who accuses him of burning money on the "Gay White Way," and demands \$100 a week alimony. If he got a look in on Broadway for his salary he must have converted it into Villa currency, and his wife ought to be satisfied to get the alimony in the same form.

Admitting that he had robbed as many as fifty apartments and stolen fully \$10,000 in money and valuables, a New York thief pleaded that he committed the crimes for love of a girl and to satisfy her craving for luxuries. And there is no apparent reason why the girl should not be sent to prison, along with the robber, as the receiver of stolen goods.

Although he never drank, chewed, smoked, or swore, and always gave his wife all his wages, a Pittsburgh man was haled into court on a charge of desertion. When asked why she had caused her husband's arrest, Mrs. Bethinger said that he had failed to keep her in spending money for several months. It's really a pity this woman didn't get the kind of a husband she deserves.

The death of a day or two ago of a former member of the New York State legislature is ascribed to hydrophobia contracted four years ago when he was bitten by a pet dog. If this is accepted as true by the medical profession, members of which admit that it is the first recorded case developing four years after inoculation, it will add still further to the mystery that has always been connected with this dread malady.

There are numerous angles to the question of whether or not the speed limit for vehicles traversing the streets of Washington is too low. It will scarcely be denied that intelligent, alert and cautious drivers furnish a more reliable guarantee of safety to pedestrians than the speed limit, but unfortunately the majority of drivers are not of this type and a speed limit is necessary to keep the others from killing and maiming.

The suffragists of New York are planning a one-day strike of women workers for the purpose of showing their strength. They hope to induce 50,000 to lay down their tasks for a day. While they are about it they ought to permit the strike to continue a week, and not only show their strength, but demonstrate that it would be impossible for the State of New York to get along without its women workers, or the reverse.

Predicting that the Republicans will unite on one ticket in 1916 and will win with a candidate and platform satisfactory to all, former Senator Chauncey M. Depew added: "Of course Mr. Wilson will be the Democratic candidate. There is no one else who can stand alongside him in that party, but there are many things unobserved now which decide a national campaign. The country will hear then from such people as those who are now writing and talking about Mexico." Mr. Depew was, of course, figuring that the weakest and most widely condemned policy of the present administration is to be continued to the end.

J. A. McCrea, general manager of the Long Island Railroad, commenting on those who jeopardize their lives by passing over tracks at crossings while gates are lowered, said: "It is deplorable that every day there are so many flagrant violations of the law which aims to safeguard the public. Last week more than forty individuals were arrested for creeping underneath or prying apart crossing gates that were closed or lowered. Of those arrested thirty-four pleaded guilty and were fined." Here we have authoritative information that it is necessary to arrest and punish supposedly sane individuals for prying open the jaws of death for the purpose of sacrificing themselves.

One Way to Avert a Break.

Rejoicing over the prospect that the outcome of Ambassador von Bernstorff's dispatch to the State Department will be the averting of a severance of friendly relations with Germany seems premature and a confession of an undue eagerness to grasp at even a slender excuse to recede, a distance at least, from the admirably firm and just position assumed by our government in its last communication to Berlin on the subject of the sinking of the Lusitania. It must be perfectly clear by this time that friendly relations can be maintained only as the result of the backing down of Germany or the backing down of the United States. The United States cannot recede without sacrificing its rights and its honor. Germany can recede by applying the principles of humanity and civilization to its naval warfare.

The attitude of the United States has been made plain beyond any possibility of misunderstanding. When the Lusitania was torpedoed 115 Americans were murdered and Germany's response to this government's demand for reparation and a pledge that American lives should not be similarly sacrificed or jeopardized in future was a point blank refusal, coupled with a proposal of certain impossible conditions under which Americans might travel the seas in safety. Whereupon our government in measured words warned Germany that international law and the laws of civilization, which imperiled the lives of Americans, would be regarded as a "deliberately unfriendly" act.

Proof is ample that the "deliberately unfriendly" act was committed when the Arabic was sunk, two Americans killed and the lives of many others placed in jeopardy. There is not another word for this government to say; it is its duty to act, when all the facts are officially attested to the satisfaction of President Wilson and his advisers. Ambassador von Bernstorff has asked that action be deferred until Germany can be heard from, a course already determined on before his message was received in Washington. This message contains nothing in itself that can prevent action in response to a hostile act committed against this nation. Any expectation that friendly relations are to be continued must necessarily be based on what will follow from Berlin. Unless the United States is to recede, unless it is willing to pocket a deliberate defiance of the terms of its note of July 21 and be satisfied herewith with less than was therein righteously demanded, there is but one course to be taken to maintain friendly relations, and that course must be taken by Germany. Germany must affirm and satisfy the United States that the unfriendly act, the sinking of the Arabic, was not her act, but the unauthorized and unwarranted act of a naval officer, for which she must disclaim responsibility; and this while the German newspapers are glorifying the deed. Germany must further give assurances that she will in future abide by the terms of our note of July 21, and then there must be no other and similar unauthorized and unwarranted attacks by submarine commanders, because Germany would be unable to evade responsibility for them.

Quite obviously all this would amount to a complete breakdown by Germany, but surely the government and people of the United States cannot accept less and maintain their rights, their honor and their dignity. Any one who believes the crisis has been averted must believe that Germany is prepared to accept these conditions. They should be well weighed in the mind of the rejoicing. It should be borne in mind, too, that such agreement is not likely to be brought about by diplomatic negotiations further prolonged. The American people will not patiently contemplate a further exchange, and they have every right to expect that, if a friendly understanding is to be reached, it will come through a prompt and unreserved proffer from Berlin.

A Nefarious Industry.

Once before The Herald called attention to the infamous industry of blackmailing prominent men which has flourished and grown to alarming proportions in New York. In spite of repeated exposures and some prosecutions for perjury brought about by prospective victims with more moral courage than the majority of them, unscrupulous lawyers and adventuresses in criminal partnership continue plotting to extort their price for leaving reputations unblasted. For every case that gets into the courts circumstances would indicate that there are a dozen in which publicity is avoided by the victims—most of them innocent, a few culpable in some degree—paying the price demanded.

On a former occasion The Herald suggested that the evil should be suppressed through the co-operation of the courts, the reputable lawyers and the police. This is the remedy urged by Judge Corrigan from the bench the other day, after listening to a case in which he regarded the circumstances as suspicious. He said: "They are absolutely cold-blooded conspiracies. They are legal 'black-downs,' and when a client falls on a victim from whom he thinks he can extort cash money, he goes to a shyster lawyer and they cook up the evidence. Any man in this city is likely to find himself a victim. I am saying this because I think it should be called to the attention of the public. It is time the magistrates should take action to stop this blackmail."

That its courts can be used successfully for purposes of blackmail is a disgrace to the city of New York, the more flagrant because apparently no steps have yet been taken to remove it. It is a situation in which other cities are interested, for which most of them have so far been comparatively immune from the "legal black-down," an industry that flourishes does not lack for recruits. New York sets the pace in crime and finds many followers, and its criminals have a way of working the "provinces" when the home field is being overdrained. It is in the Metropolis that this menacing combination of the adventuresses and the shyster lawyer should be broken up at once.

Oh, Yes.

Prof. Kuno Franke wants to know if the sale of arms by private citizens of the United States is moral. Yes! And a lot more moral than the sale of arms to belligerents by the Krupps—with the Kaiser the largest stockholder in the concern.—Wall Street Journal.

A Tactful Omission.

A conference of bishops at Fulda, in Hesse-Nassau, has thanked the Kaiser for guarding the homes and altars of the Fatherland. We observe a tactful omission of all reference to the homes of Louvain and the altars at Rheims.—New York World.

"All's Right!"

By JOHN D. HARRY.

The other day I heard a man quote a line of Browning's, from Pippa Passes: "All's right with the world."

Often I have heard that line quoted by thoughtless optimists. They seem to believe it gives their optimism a kind of intellectual indorsement. They pay no attention to the line that goes before and explains just what Browning meant. Here are the two lines:

"God's in His heaven;
"All's right with the world."

Browning meant, of course, that because God was in his heaven all was right with the world, that is, the world was right because it had the guardianship of God.

Here Browning was simply expressing the mood that we often feel. It's one of the pleasant illusions by which, in joyous moments, we identify ourselves with the universe.

If we are sick everything is out of joint. If we are well and happy, "all's right with the world."

Often on a sunny day, as I walk along the street like my optimistic friend, I feel that "all's right with the world."

Apparently all is right. I look about and I see no suffering. On the contrary, I see human beings well dressed, active, cheerful looking. What is more natural than to say, "All's right with the world?"

And what is more superficial?

Suppose I think about what I see.

For example, I see coming out of a fashionable hotel a fine-looking man.

I know that he is a highly successful politician. He wears handsome, well-fitting clothes. He, too, is affected by the sunshine and by the air of cheer about him. He plainly feels that "all's right with the world."

But I happen to know that he is directly allied with the criminality of a great city. A large number of people have given him their power, the power that they express through their votes, a democracy, of the institution they create by their social and economic relations, their common needs. He uses this power to elect to office men who will do his will. Through some of these men he levies tribute on vice. He is the accomplice of gamblers and evil women.

When I see this man, handsomely dressed, erect, looking the world fearlessly in the eye, enjoying the sunshine, it is hard for me to feel that "all's right with the world."

This particular man, as it happens, has a sister, a woman who maintains a resort in the heart of a great city.

This place is known to the police. It is the business of the police to drive such places out of existence.

And the police realize that, if they annoy this woman in any way they will meet the antagonism of that handsomely dressed man, who has so much power.

His power can injure them. It may even take away their positions. And it is by their positions that they keep their wives and children alive.

We are tempted to blame the police.

We are tempted to blame the woman who keeps the place.

We are tempted to blame the girls who are the slaves of the woman's traffic, whose degradation and shame supply the man with money.

Most of us forget about the handsomely dressed man.

In fact, until lately, most of us didn't even suspect that the handsomely dressed man maintained his impressive appearance by any such means.

My optimistic friend who says "all's right with the world" apparently has no suspicion that such things are.

A few days ago a middle-aged man left a prison in a city of the Northwest.

He had entered the prison a youth.

Already, however, he had made a reputation as a burglar.

As soon as he left the prison word was sent out to the world, a word of warning, "Miley the Cat is free again."

Miley went to a city, far away, to see his sister, he said. As soon as he reached the city he called at the office of the chief of police. "I am not going to do any work here," he said. "I have come to see my sister and I just want to let you know that while I am here I am going to be all right."

Note his words, "I am not going to do any work here." To him burglary is work.

The chief knew all about Miley. "I will let you stay here for fifteen days," he said. "After that you must get out. Report here every morning."

I have heard that the police thought Miley's reason for coming to see his sister was to meet an old pal, soon to be released from a near-by prison. The police thought the two pals were going to get together and prey on society.

Maybe the police were right.

It is possible that Miley intends to keep straight, for a while at any rate.

But that long term in prison, those years when Miley changed from a youth to a middle-aged man, what did those years do to him?

Did they make him better or worse?

The police evidently have an opinion.

But if the police have the right opinion, how hard it is for some of us to say "all's right with the world."

For society after imprisoning that burglar from youth to middle-age, merely releases him into another prison.

Suppose he really did wish to see his sister. Suppose his love for his sister was the only beautiful thing in his heart.

It may be that being near his sister would be enough to drive out of his heart all the bitterness, all the hate that would make him wish to revenge himself on society.

He can be with his sister just fifteen days. Then he must go on to another compartment of the prison.

Will they let him stay there for fifteen days, too?

And what does his sister think of it all?

On the other hand, perhaps he has never had a sister.

Those fellows often have no respect for the truth.

(To be continued tomorrow.)

Has It Come to This?

Notice the Kaiser is about to call to the colors men of 50. Wonder if this will deprive us of Henry Weismann and Dr. Hexamer.—New York Evening Telegram.

The Easy Mark.

Judging by the strikingly brilliant success of the pro-German propaganda in America, the Kaiser's money might be referred to as an easy mark.—Boston Transcript.

No Use For Villa.

Mrs. Villa says that she and her husband are going to move to California. But Villa is not needed in that State and may not be appreciated. They have Hiram Johnson out there.—Kansas City Journal.

OUR COUNTRY— OUR PRESIDENT A History of the American People BY WOODROW WILSON

STAMPEDE OF THE TORIES.

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WHEN peace came it proved more difficult than ever to induce the country to settle down to the quiet life of the continent out of Europe, abandoning home and property to escape continuity and the unspeakable hardship of being outlaid and hated in the communities of their own birth and breeding.

Thousands upon thousands crowded to New York to seek the shelter of the British army.

It was the 25th of November, 1783, before Sir Guy Carleton could effect the final evacuation of the city, so great and so troublesome was the pitiful confusion of refugees for which he felt himself obliged in mere compassion to provide protection and transportation.

More than twenty-nine thousand refugees (including three thousand negroes) left the State of New York alone, for Canada, during that confused and anxious year 1783.

Most of these had taken no active part in the struggle which had rendered them homeless. Almost without exception they had been, in opinion, as thoroughly opposed as their neighbors to the policy of the King and Parliament towards the colonies. But they had not been willing to go the only length of rebellion and of outright separation from England.

When it came to the final break, some of them had become more merely passive but active opponents of revolution and independence.

The more partisan had taken up arms for the King. First and last, during the five years of the fighting, there had been no fewer than twenty-five thousand loyalists enlisted in the British service. At one time (1779) they had actually outnumbered the whole of the continental army under the personal command of Washington.

Most of these, however, who would not join the patriot party had been quiet non-combatants, and had been opponents of the revolution only in opinion.

Tomorrow—The Burden of Debt.

History Builders.

Webster's Brief But Eloquent Response.

By DR. E. J. EDWARDS.

"I once heard the Rev. Dr. Bellows speak of a Jewish rabbi who, when listening to the oratory of Rufus Choate, and after Choate finished his address, he said to every one around him: 'I have never heard a man speak so well as this late Noah Davis to me. Judge Davis was a warm personal friend of Dr. Bellows and sometimes spoke of the clergyman as in many respects the most eloquent master of pulpit oratory he had ever heard, not even excepting Henry Ward Beecher.'"

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